

Message Text

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ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 H-01 RSR-01 RSC-01 ADP-00 /008 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7746

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BAMAKO 2679

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OTRA, ML

SUBJ: VISIT DIGGS' AIDES

TO AGGREY FROM KUNIHOLM

1. RECENT TRIP MELISSA LAWSON AND THOMAS HOOPER WENT WELL EXCEPT THAT THEY WERE NOT PERMITTED VISIT NOMAD CAMP IN SPITE OF PRIOR APPROVAL MINISTER DEFENSE BECAUSE LOCAL COMMANDANT INSENSED THAT: (1) PLANE BRINGING GROUP TIMBUKTU HAD DISCHARGED ITS ORAIN GOUNDAM; (2) THE COMMANDANTA SPENT 4 HOURS AWAITING GUESTS AT AIRPORT BECAUSE GOM FAILED TELEGRAPH CHANGE TRAVEL PLANS; AND (3) LAWSON AND HOOPER, BOTH FINE YOUNG PEOPLE, WERE HERE GENERAL ORIENTATION TRIP AND DID NOT SEEM PREPARED QUESTION GOM OFFICIALS EXCEPT IN VERY SUPERFICIAL TERMS.

2. WISH EMPHASIZE THAT PERSONALLY I ENJOYED HAVING LAWSON AND HOOPER MY GUESTS BUT BELIEVE WE SHOULD HAVE BEEN INFORMED ABOUT NATURE OF THEIR TRIP, I.E. SUMMER INTERNS WHO WANTED BENEFIT C-130 FLIGHT SEE AFRICA. I THOUGHT THESE WERE FULL TIME STAFF

AIDES CONGRESSMAN DIGGS COMING HERE SERIOUS PURPOSE EVALUATE DROUGHT AND CONSEQUENTLY I EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE THEIR VISIT DEFENSE MINISTER DOUKARA, CHEF DE LA GENDARMARIE DIALLO, AND OTHER SENIOR MALIANS CONNECTED WITH DROUGHT. AS RESULT THIS KIND TRIP (VISIT RUDY ROUSSEAU STAFF AID SENATOR PEARSON SAME

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CATEGORY) WE BEGINNING ERODE GOODWILL WE HAVE ESTABLISHED

WITH GOM OVER DROUGHT RELIEF ASSISTANCE. IF WE DON'T SHOW SOME
DISCRETION NUMBER AND KINDS QUOTE OFFICIAL UNQUOTE VISITS WE
PROMOTE TO MALI, I'M CERTAIN GOM WILL RAISE COMMUNICATION BARRIER

MAKING IT DIFFICULT FOR US CONTACT THEM OVER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

AND GET THEIR COOPERATION WHEN VISIT REALLY IMPORTANT. GOM
GETTING EXASPERATED WITH VISITORS COMING VIEW DROUGHT WITH NO
SPECIFIC PURPOSE. FOR EXAMPLE, WHILE USIS PHOTOGRAPHER, TOPIC
JOURNALIST, LAWSON AND HOOPER DENIED ACCESS TO CAMP, CDC
NUTRITIONAL ANALYSIS MARK LAPOINTE WHO ACCOMPANIED GROUP AND

WHO SPENT SEVERAL DAYS TIMBUKTU, GIVEN FULL COOPERATION
INCLUDING ACCESS TO CAMP.

3. I REALIZE THAT PUBLIC INTEREST SAHEL DROUGHT GENERATES
THESE VISITS BUT IF AT ALL POSSIBLE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR
MINIMIZING THEM AND IF UNAVOIDABLE AT LEAST LET ME KNOW
REAL NATURE OF TRIP.

KUNIHOLM

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